

And, of course, we are taking the long overdue step to increase vehicle efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020—Providing the automobile industry the certainty it needs, while offering flexibility to automakers and ensuring that we keep American manufacturing jobs and continue domestic production of fuel efficient vehicles.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, UCS, reports that these higher standards will cut oil imports by 1.1 million barrels per day in 2020. That is about half the amount we currently import from the entire Persian Gulf. If these standards had already been in place this year, the average driver would have used 160 fewer gallons of gas, and saved \$500. But let's not look back, when we can move forward and embrace tomorrow's great challenges.

This is an investment in the generations to come. But we also have it responsibility to working and middle class families today. A 2006 study from the National Renewable Energy Lab, NREL, identified the shortage of skills and training as a leading non-technical barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth. The NREL study identified a number of critical unmet training needs, including lack of reliable installation, maintenance, and inspection services, the shortage of key technical and manufacturing skills, and failure of the educational system to provide adequate training in new technologies.

That is why this bill authorizes \$125 million to establish national and state job training programs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency fields, training a quality workforce for "green" collar jobs—such as solar panel manufacturer and green building construction worker.

In Connecticut we have already seen the local job growth that comes with investment and innovation in biofuel and fuel cell technology. Now, for example, this bill provides an 8-year extension of a tax credit for investments in fuel-cell properties with a credit of \$3,000 per kilowatt capacity—expressed in the tax code as \$1,500 per half kilowatt capacity—or 30 percent, whichever is less. Looking forward, we know that major investments in renewable energy could create 3 million green jobs nationally over 10 years.

And we are doing it responsibly. This legislation does not add to the deficit and all revenue offsets resulted from bipartisan negotiations.

It is time to stop talking about energy independence and start moving toward it. The American people get that and they want us to act today. It is no wonder this bill has won the support and praise from such a broad coalition of environmental, business and labor organizations—from farm groups to faith groups, from the United Auto Workers to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For years, President Bush has talked about breaking our addiction to fossil fuel, State of the Union after State of the Union. But now that he actually has an opportunity to make good on that promise, it seems he would rather make a hollow political gesture with his veto pen.

We deserve better. This bill represents a critical turning point and bold statement: On the path toward energy independence, the status quo is not an option. There is nothing America cannot achieve if we put our minds to it, harnessing our future to our own spirit of ingenuity and innovation.

A TRIBUTE TO PEARLINE LOUNDS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pearline Lounds. Pearline was born on the island of Jamaica in the West Indies, where she has six brothers and sisters. It was there she received a formal education in home economics. Pearline later relocated to England, working at South Mead Hospital as a nurse's assistant, which gave her an opportunity to help support her family in Jamaica until her return. However, she decided instead to relocate to New York.

Pearline continued her education, attending New York City Technical College where she graduated with an associate's degree in applied science. She furthered her studies at York College of the City University of New York, earning a bachelor's degree of science and graduating with a 4.0 grade point average. Pearline later went to work at Sephardic Nursing Home as a nurse's aide. She left there for an opportunity as a social worker for Project Chance and as a social worker for Bushwick Community Services as well as Safe Horizon.

Pearline is a champion for peace. She is a member of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, and in 2001, the United Nations honored her with the title of Ambassador for Peace. Pearline is a board member of New York's Family Center and is known as "Mama P" in the community, consistently encouraging young people to be themselves. She is a mother, friend, counselor, leader and guide.

Pearline is married with 7 children; 24 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren, 2 of whom have been in her care for the past 7 years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this wonderful and caring woman who has always put the needs of her family and her community before her own.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Pearline Lounds.

HONORING THE WILLIAM FLOYD VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker. I rise to congratulate the extraordinary efforts of the William Floyd High School Varsity Football Team, for yet another flawless and record-setting season.

It was around this time last year that I rose to recognize the William Floyd High School team for an undefeated season and for winning the Long Island High School Championship, along with the coveted Rutgers Trophy. One full season later, and the Colonials are enjoying a winning streak of 33 consecutive games. This is a historic and unprecedented achievement in the 126-year history of Long Island high school football.

The William Floyd Colonials have been a dominating force for 3 consecutive years of

perfect 11–0 seasons. Their exploits have garnered even national recognition, as a recent Sports Illustrated poll ranks the powerhouse team 25th in the entire country.

I am honored to represent William Floyd High School athletes who not only display great athletic prowess, but also a commitment to winning with class and sportsmanship. Competitive athletics teaches our students a host of valuable life lessons and I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities, as they complement, and contribute to academic excellence.

It is an honor to read the names of Coach Paul Longo's team into the RECORD.

First his coaching staff: Gil DeCicco, Pete Friedman, Robert Jackolski, Pete Lesiewicz, Brian Babst, Ernie Villatore and Mike Agostino.

Now the players who make up one of the most feared lineups in Long Island football history: Mat Golden, John Amato, Jarel Johnson, Krys Valentini, Nick Sidaras, Ricky Kruger, Joe Sidaras, Luke Miller, Matthew Vigliotta, Rey Marciano, Brian Zippel, Steven Murphy, Nick Verderosa, Keith McCormack, Rahmel Cook, Marcus Muelthaler, Kevin Lacey, Tom Antinucci, Vaughn Magee, Jonathan Romeo, Brandon Walsh, Jon Hernandez, Brock Jackolski, Fernando Vasquez, Malik Green, Tom Penney, Jonathan Elbedawy, Jon D'Amico, Billy Keane, Chris Mocera, Pablo Ortiz, William Melin, Nick Astore, Wayne Magee, Dom Buffa, Anthony Hernandez, Sam Feerer, Tom Mocera, JJ Santiago, Joe Johnson, Calvin Forbes, Chris Cordovano, Brendon Turill, Brandon Clark, Andrew Giovine, Andrew Incantalupo, Dan Bayer, Nick DiGiorgi, Brandon Fardella, Guy Loomis, Matt Seib, Andrew Lingg, Mike Presseison, Alex Winters, Tom Lindley, Stephen Diaz, Donald Strand, Joe Miranda, Jon Korn, Eric Koenigsdorf, Nico Gonzalez, Jesse Kelley, Orion Folborg, Joe Mensch, Ricky Stoner, Robert DeSilva, Tim Cork.

The entire William Floyd community is justifiably excited and proud of the achievements of this team. These young student athletes represent what is good about high school sports, and it is my privilege to serve as their Congressman.

Go Floyd.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKLYN'S FIDELITY CHAPTER NO. 54 ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn's Fidelity Chapter No. 54, Order of Eastern Star. The Fidelity Chapter has been outstanding in its service to the Brooklyn community for nearly 70 years. I am privileged to have such a dedicated group of individuals in my district.

On the Seventh day of November, 1938, Roland R. Johnson, Worthy Grand Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star of the State of New York, Prince Hall Affiliation, by virtue of the authority vested in him, did grant and issue a warrant to Fidelity Chapter No. 54 to be held in Brooklyn, New York; Samantha Taylor, Worthy Grand Matron,

Octavia Giles, Associate Grand Matron, and Frances E. Frances, Grand Secretary.

Fidelity No. 54 has been fortunate to have had dedicated members to serve Eureka Grand Chapter. Past Worthy Matrons with the help of Worthy Patrons, have contributed their time, knowledge, and experience enabling the Fidelity No. 54 Chapter to carry out a varied number of community programs. Fidelity No. 54 has been responsible for sending underprivileged children to camp during the summer, assisting in the feeding of the homeless in the Second District, responding to a request for non-perishable food and clothing for natural disaster victims, and extending charity to the family of their deceased members. Fidelity No. 54 members have taken part in doing volunteer work at several hospitals and nursing homes.

Fidelity No. 54 holds a host of community service events at the end of each year, including their annual Thanksgiving dinner for the community and their annual clothes drive.

Madam Speaker, I would like to also recognize the impressive achievements of Paulette Cudjoe, Fidelity's Worthy Matron and Elwood E. Gregory, Fidelity's Worthy Patron for their commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful group of Americans and the great things for which they stand.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative days of Wednesday, December 5, 2007, and Thursday, December 6, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 1127—"yea"; rollcall 1128—"yea"; rollcall 1129—"yea"; rollcall 1130—"nay"; rollcall 1131—"yea"; rollcall 1132—"yea"; rollcall 1133—"yea"; rollcall 1134—"nay"; rollcall 1135—"yea"; rollcall 1136—"nay"; rollcall 1137—"nay"; rollcall 1138—"yea"; rollcall 1140—"nay"; rollcall 1141—"yea".

A TRIBUTE TO ALBA MAY POWELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alba May Powell. Alba was born and raised in the Republic of Costa Rica. She is from a tightly knit family composed of five sisters and one brother. She received her formal education at Liberty Hall School and later moved to Panama where she lived for 35 years. In 1964, she migrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn, NY.

Alba is an active participant at the East New York Seventh Day Adventist Church, where she has been a member for the past 36 years. Additionally, she is a member of the East New York Community Service Department, an honorary deaconess, and a member of the East

New York Benevolence Society. Alba is also a faithful supporter of the Concerned Women of Brooklyn.

Alba received a New York State Assembly Citation for Outstanding Achievements and Senior of the Year by Assemblywoman Diane Gordon.

Alba has no biological children of her own. She has been a supportive and concerned mother and grandmother to many children over the years. She is also a dedicated aunt to all of her beloved nieces and nephews. Alba vows to continue helping others as long as she is allowed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this wonderful and caring woman who has given so much of herself, asking very little in return.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Alba May Powell.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a failure on the most basic points: It fails to drive down prices at the gas pumps; it fails to lower home heating bills; and it fails to reduce our reliance on foreign crude oil. Worse yet, this bill actually increases our reliance on oil from the Middle East and increases taxes by \$20 billion on American manufacturers.

Had this bill been crafted in a bipartisan fashion, instead of in a secret marathon session that produced a bill only this morning, we might have a bill that actually helps families and businesses dealing with record energy costs, and we might have a bill that actually helps us transition to more environmentally friendly fuels.

Unfortunately, what we do have—in addition to a new \$20 billion tax bill—are Federal mandates that States cannot possibly comply with, a slush fund worth billions of dollars that lacks any oversight, and more advisory committees and task forces.

I am particularly concerned about this \$3 billion in new government spending to subsidize projects that have nothing to do with lowering energy prices. Instead of lowering prices for consumers, this bill allows the Beverly Hills police department to buy hybrid Lexuses and a fake rainforest to be built in Iowa. In my view, this \$3 billion should be spent on helping Americans better afford their high home heating costs.

As a Member from Michigan, I would be remiss if I did not talk about the CAFE standards in this bill. To suggest this bill is the best America's automakers could get says much about this Congress. If President Coolidge's quote that "The business of America is business" expressed overconfidence in the American economy, this bill expresses at best a disdain for American automobile manufacturers and at worst an outright hostility to the work we do in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO WANDA A. JACKSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wanda A. Jackson. Wanda is the second generation child of the civic-minded parents, Della and Irkston R. "Jack" Jackson, Jr. Her mother, known as a friend to the friendless, providing a home for the homeless and making everyone feel special, has long been considered the mayor of East New York. In the shadow of her parents and the only girl in a family of six boys, Wanda has quietly and steadily made contributions to the Brooklyn community as well as to the community at large.

Wanda is a native of New York and a product of the city's public school system, graduating from John Dewey High School. She earned a business management degree at Berkeley College where she graduated magna cum laude. In 2005, she was listed among Who's Who of the Berkeley College Alumni Association.

Wanda maintains strong family ties while juggling a demanding, fast-paced career for nearly 20 years as an executive assistant at a major brokerage firm on Wall Street. She still finds time to lend assistance to major fundraising campaigns such as the United Negro College Fund, United Way of Tri-State, the Building Capital Fund Campaign at St. Paul's Community Baptist Church and Project Sunshine, a non-profit organization that provides free social, educational and recreational programs to children and families living with medical challenges. During tax season, Wanda can be found preparing tax returns for Brooklyn's East New York residents. She is also former treasurer of the Rosetta Gaston United Democratic Club, Inc., where she was a close friend of the late Mary Warren, district leader for East New York. She is also a current member of the Spirit of America Heart Volunteers.

In addition to her professional and volunteer accomplishments, Wanda is extremely creative, with a flair for fashion. She attended Fishburn's Charm School and graduated from Barbizon Modeling School. She has designed her own clothes, which she models at talent shows.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this accomplished, civic-minded woman who comes from a lineage of giving people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Wanda A. Jackson.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN YOUTH CENTER IN JOLIET, IL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Christian Youth Center in Joliet, IL. The Christian Youth Center, CYC, is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

In 1957, a group of concerned businessmen under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Pickering,